

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 02080 121103Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 EB-08 L-03 SP-02 /034 W
-----080905 121133Z /17

R 120927Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6980

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 2080

FOR DICK MOOSE, PAT DERIAN AND GOLER BUTCHER FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, EAID, UV
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

REF: (A) STATE 113365; (B) STATE (AIDAC) 114550

1. BY COINCIDENCE, I RECEIVED BOTH REF CABLES AT THE SAME TIME. THERE IS NO POINT IN GOING INTO CONTENTS OF REF (A) BUT I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT REF (B) WAS AID'S NEGATIVE REPLY TO AN OFFICIAL REQUEST BY THE VOLTAN GOVERNMENT FOR 10,000 TONS OF FOOD AID.

2. I AM SURE YOU BOTH KNOW THAT UPPER VOLTA, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT LAMIZANA, HAS PROBABLY THE BEST RECORD IN ALL OF AFRICA AS FAR AS RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS CONCERNED. UPPER VOLTA IS IN THE PROCESS OF PEACEFULLY RETURNING TO CIVILIAN RULE. FREE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD RECENTLY. THERE IS FREEDOM OF PRESS, RELIGION, AND ASSEMBLY. THERE ARE NO POLITICAL PRISONERS IN UPPER VOLTA. WHILE THIS UNUSUAL SITUATION IS DUE IN PART TO THE MAKE-UP OF TRADITIONAL VOLTAN SOCIETY, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT LAMIZANA'S POLICIES ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. WE ARE NOW IN THE MIDDLE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN WHICH PRESIDENT LAMIZANA IS RUNNING AGAINST THREE OTHER CANDIDATES.
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FOR ME TO GO TO HIM AT THIS POINT TO TELL HIM THAT WE CANNOT GIVE HIM 10,000 TONS OF GRAIN, WHEN WE KNOW THERE ARE AREAS IN UPPER VOLTA WHERE PEOPLE ARE STARVING, HARDLY SEEMS TO BE THE KIND OF ENCOURAGEMENT WHICH I BELIEVE IS ENVISAGED IN REF (A).

3. OUR REPLY TO REF (B) WAS SENT TO AID/W IN OUAGADOUGOU

2026. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE YOU CAN GIVE
ME SO THAT I CAN TELL PRESIDENT LAMIZANA ASAP THAT WE WILL
PROVIDE 10,000 TONS OF FOOD AID, EVEN IF IT MUST ARRIVE
IN UPPER VOLTA AFTER THE NEXT HARVEST. GRAHAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
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Draft Date: 12 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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